

Iraq says 24 Iranians killed

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Friday its troops killed 24 Iranian soldiers and wounded several others in a clash in the Haj Omran area of the northern Gulf war front. A military communique issued here also said seven Iranians were killed and two army vehicles and two infantry emplacements destroyed in Haj Omran itself during the past 24 hours. The former Iraqi post at Haj Omran in the Kurdish border mountains of northern Iraq was captured during an Iranian offensive late last month. The military communique said Iraqi warplanes and helicopter gunships had attacked Iranian positions in the northern and central fronts. It added that a border township in the central sector had come under Iranian artillery fire and several civilian installations had been damaged.

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Beirut sentences 2 Palestinians to death

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese military court has sentenced two Palestinians to death and jailed two others for trying to assassinate a Lebanese army intelligence chief in April. Two other Palestinians were acquitted, but jailed for a year on charges of carrying arms. All six men belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the court was told. They were accused of taking part in a machine-gun and rocket attack near Sidon in which Colonel Qassem Siblini was wounded.

Syrian plane catches fire in Rome

ROME (R) — A Syrian Airlines plane caught fire at Rome airport Friday as 154 passengers were boarding, causing the closure of the airport for one hour, officials said. The fire broke out a few minutes before the Boeing 727 was due to take off for Damascus. There was no immediate explanation of the cause.

Leidel chosen as new U.S. envoy to Bahrain

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan plans to nominate Donald Charles Leidel, 55, to succeed Peter A. Sutherland as U.S. ambassador to Bahrain, according to a recent announcement from the White House. Mr. Leidel, a career member of the senior foreign service, has been deputy director of management operations at the U.S. State Department since 1981.

Turkmen arrives in northern Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Foreign Minister Turgut Ersoy has arrived in northern Cyprus at the invitation of Turkish Cypriot leader Raul Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot Baitak Radio reported Friday. Mr. Turkmen was quoted as saying on arrival he would take the opportunity to exchange views with Mr. Denktash on the present situation in Cyprus during his three-day visit. Leaders of both Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities are considering a new initiative by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to break a nine-year-old deadlock in talks aimed at setting up a federal republic.

Ankara cracks down on 2 political parties

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's military rulers Friday clamped vetoes on 17 prospective founding members of two front-running new political parties, virtually ruling the parties out of general elections set for Nov. 6. Two separate announcements by the ruling National Security Council (NSC) said eight prospective founders of the Social Democratic Party (SODEP), and nine prospective founders of the right-of-centre Correct Way party had been vetoed. It left both parties short of the required 30 founding members needed to qualify for the elections with only six days until the final registration deadline.

INSIDE

- France sends strike aircraft to Chad, page 2
- Hussein. Noor visit Jerash Festival troupe, page 3
- Judge Clarke does to Shultz what Kissinger did to Rogers, page 4
- Fairouz sings more than beautiful songs, page 5
- East Germans seem set to retain domination in athletics, page 6
- Key U.S. financial experts favour tight policy, page 7
- International jurists criticize Sri Lanka, page 8

Murabitoun protest against Arens visit

Lebanese leftists warn Falangists

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Beirut's leading predominantly Muslim leftist organisation said Friday it was ready to take up arms to redress an imbalance with heavily-armed rightist Falangist militias.

The warning from the Murabitoun (vigilant) organisation came in protest at Tuesday's visit to Beirut by Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens, who inspected a Falangist guard of honour in largely Christian East Beirut. The Murabitoun, which played a major role in the 1975-76 civil war, was disarmed like other leftist groups when the Lebanese army took control of Beirut last October in the wake of the Israeli invasion.

The army later moved into the Christian eastern sector of the capital. But Falangist militiamen have continued to operate at their headquarters there, though they have stopped carrying arms on the streets.

The Murabitoun said in a statement it had already "rehabilitated" its fighting units and added: "It is watching events to declare zero hour to confront any military or other challenge against our people."

The group said that if the rightist militias remained the only group carrying arms openly in

Beirut, then it would be forced to adopt a "military alternative."

Mr. Arens' visit to Beirut and his warm reception by rightist leaders sparked a wave of protest from leftist politicians, and Muslim Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan hinted he might resign.

President Amin Gemayel Thursday night condemned Mr. Arens' visit, even though his own father, Falangist Party chief Pierre Gemayel, was one of the leaders who received the Israeli minister. The president also called on government and opposition leaders to begin an urgent dialogue.

The moves appeared to dampen the wave of indignation among mainstream politicians, and allowed Mr. Wazzan to stay on.

U.S. justifies Arens visit

Meanwhile, the United States has once again reiterated its position stressing the necessity and importance of maximum coordination between Israeli and Lebanese authorities in advance

of the pending redeployment of Israeli forces from the Shouf to areas further south in Lebanon.

However, State Department spokesman Alan Romberg declined specific comment on remarks made by Mr. Arens during his visit to Beirut. Mr. Romberg also declined specific comment on the reported threat by Mr. Wazzan to resign in protest over the welcome given to Mr. Arens by rightist leaders in east Beirut.

"We can see why Mr. Arens might have visited the Beirut area in his capacity as defence minister, given the presence there of Israeli troops and the need to conduct discussions with Israeli military officials there prior to the redeployment from the Shouf," Mr. Romberg said.

"With regard to the redeployment, we are stressing the necessity and importance of maximum coordination between Israeli and Lebanese authorities," Mr. Romberg said. "This will help assure that Israeli withdrawal and subsequent Lebanese deployment into areas vacated by the IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) occur in such a way so as to strengthen the Lebanese central government, to show its ability to extend its authority, and to lay the basis for additional withdrawals of foreign forces from Lebanon."

20 injured in Tripoli explosion

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — At least 20 people were wounded when a car bomb exploded outside a Tripoli hospital Friday and security officials said several had serious injuries.

There were no immediate reports of fatalities.

The right-wing Falangist radio said there were 25 casualties including some killed. There was no confirmation of the report.

The bomb, in a Mercedes car parked outside the Abdullah Al-Bisar Hospital, went off with a huge roar, wrecking at least 15 vehicles parked nearby.

The hospital was severely damaged by the bomb, estimated by

security men to contain about 50 kilograms of high explosives.

The bomb caused damage up to 500 metres away. A thick cloud of smoke blanketed the area as rescue and fire teams rushed to the scene.

The headquarters of a local militia opposed to Syria, the October 24 movement, is a short distance away.

The October 24 movement recently expressed support for the Beirut government of President Amin Gemayel.

On Aug. 5, a car bomb exploded near a Tripoli mosque while

worshippers were leaving after Friday prayers, killing 19 people and wounding 40. No one claimed responsibility for the blast.

In southern Lebanon, a bomb exploded close to a car driven by a leading officer in the right-wing militia led by Major Saad Haddad, Beirut Radio reported. It said the officer, Mohammad Jumaa, was unharmed.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa later reported the bomb was set off by Lebanese national resistance guerrillas in Ziriyyeh and described Mr. Jumaa as "a military leader of the quiescent Saad Haddad's militia."

PLO envoy tours Africa to counter Israeli moves

BEIRUT (R) — A special Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) envoy has been sent on a tour of Africa to counter Israel's latest diplomatic drive there, according to the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

The envoy, from the PLO Political Department in Tunis, was sent on his mission after the news that Liberia was restoring diplomatic ties with the Jewish state, Wafa said.

The envoy also planned to visit Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

Doe to visit Israel

Liberian President Samuel Doe will start a four-day official visit to Israel on Monday, the first by a black African leader for a decade, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Liberia, one of 28 African states to sever relations during the Middle East war 10 years ago, announced last week it was renewing diplomatic ties with Israel.

Israel also has relations with Zaire, Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland and officials have said they expect more African nations to resume ties following recent secret contacts.

Arafat expected to visit Moscow soon

VIENNA (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will pay a visit to Moscow soon, Farouk Kaddoumi, chief PLO spokesman on foreign affairs, said here Thursday.

Mr. Kaddoumi, speaking to journalists after a three-hour meeting with Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lang, would not give a specific date for Mr. Arafat's Moscow trip.

"Comrade Arafat will visit Moscow soon," was all he said. Mr. Arafat had been expected to head a PLO delegation to Moscow last month, but in the end the delegation left without him and was headed by Mr. Kaddoumi.

Diplomats in Beirut said this raised speculation that the Kremlin was awaiting the outcome of the present feud within the PLO.

But Mr. Kaddoumi said Mr. Arafat had not gone to Moscow because many Soviet leaders were on vacation during the summer.

"Our Soviet comrades asked therefore that only I go there to talk with Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko," he said.

Mr. Kaddoumi said he and Mr. Lang had discussed the forthcoming United Nations conference on Palestinian rights to be held in Geneva from Aug. 29 to Sept. 7, and various aspects of developments in the Middle East.

"We discussed ways of bringing the Geneva conference to a successful conclusion," Mr. Lang said after the talks, but said both sides had different views on the situation in the Middle East.

Austrian sources close to the talks said Mr. Lang had repeated Austria's long standing position that a solution to the Middle East problem could be reached only with the participation of all parties concerned and must include the preservation of Israel's rights.

Mr. Kaddoumi said the question of the exchange of eight Israeli prisoners captured in Lebanon last year for some 6,000 Palestinians had also been discussed in Thursday's talks.

U.S.: Israel will pull out totally

SANTA BARBARA, California (R) — The White House Friday reaffirmed its view that Israel's pullback of troops towards southern Lebanon was part of an eventual total withdrawal and not a move to partition Lebanon permanently. Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said the United States had confidence in Israeli government statements that a pullback south to the Awali River "is only part of a total withdrawal" and that Israel wanted to see a strong Lebanese government with full authority over the entire country. Mr. Speakes said Robert McFarlane, the new U.S. Middle East negotiator, found during his current Middle East tour that there was a solid foundation of support in the Arab World and in Israel for the principles of full withdrawal and full authority for the Lebanese government.



Swiss army soldiers Friday prepare barbed wire to fence off the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva where a conference on Palestinian rights is scheduled to be held Aug. 29 to Sept. 7. The Swiss

army and police have mounted one of the massive operations in years to provide security for the participants of the conference (A.P. wirephoto)

Qasem to lead team to Geneva meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem will lead the Jordanian delegation to a United Nations conference on Palestinian rights scheduled to be held in Geneva Aug. 29 to Sept. 7, an official spokesman said Friday.

The conference, to be held at

the U.N. European headquarters in Geneva, was to have taken place in Paris but French objections led the venue to be shifted to Switzerland. Vienna was also one of the venues under consideration but the Austrian government expressed its inability to

provide security for the participants.

Preparations are under way in Geneva for the conference and the Swiss army and police are mounting a heavy security operation, one of the few of its kind the Swiss city has ever witnessed.

Arafat: Lebanon partition is an established fact now

KUWAIT (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was Friday quoted as saying the partition of Lebanon was now a *fait accompli*.

Mr. Arafat, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman and leader of the mainstream Fatah guerrilla group, visited Kuwait for two days, leaving for Baghdad Thursday.

He told the daily newspaper Al Qabas before his departure, "The partition of Lebanon is now a *fait accompli*. I am not the only one who fears that for it is a common fear that haunts the majority of the Lebanese people and officials."

"This is what I warned against when I was in Beirut," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying.

Mr. Arafat was evacuated from Beirut along with thousands of his fighters almost a year ago at the

height of Israel's siege of the Lebanese capital. He has since set up his headquarters in Tunis.

"The Arab Nation is now experiencing a serious turning point. There are the events in Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories and there are the risks of the continuing Iraq-Iran war as well as the danger of Balkanising the region," Mr. Arafat said.

Asked if it were possible to heal the split within his Fatah movement, Mr. Arafat said, "The crisis is not within Fatah. It lies with Palestinian-Syrian and Palestinian-Libyan relations."

"We in the Palestinian revolution are greatly anxious to maintain good Palestinian-Arab relations," he said.

Mr. Arafat was expelled from Damascus in June after charging that Syria supported the rebels

Abu Nowar optimistic on Lebanon

BEIRUT (Peira) — Minister of Culture and Arts Ma'n Abu Nowar has expressed hope that Lebanon will surpass its present difficulties and restore stability and calm.

In an interview he gave to the Lebanese weekly Al Rassid, Mr. Abu Nowar said that tourism in Lebanon has suffered immensely because of the painful events that have taken place on its soil. Great damage in the tourist sphere has also befallen other Arab countries to whom tourism as an important economic factor, he said.

Mr. Abu Nowar reaffirmed Jordan's concern to promote cooperation with Lebanon.

"The strengthening of Jordanian-Lebanese relations," he said, "will certainly have a positive impact on joint Arab issues, particularly the central Palestinian cause."

McFarlane talks with Begin, Shamir and Arens

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane conferred with Israeli leaders Friday in what he said was a further effort to make certain that the forthcoming pull-back of Israeli forces is stable and orderly.

Israel has said it is about to withdraw its troops to a more defensible line from the Shouf mountain area, where Lebanese rightists and Druze militias have been battling.

The Israelis were often forced to intervene to halt the fighting and Israeli leaders have expressed fears that massacres might be committed once their units left the region.

Mr. McFarlane, who has been shuttling between Lebanon and Israel to work out an agreement for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, met Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens for two and a half hours.

Nassif meets Qasem

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Thomas Nassif, who is on a fact-finding tour of the Middle East, Thursday met with Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Mr. Nassif's talks with Mr. Qasem were expected to have covered the Middle East situation in general and U.S. efforts to secure a total withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Mr. Nassif, who held talks with Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Farouk Al Sharie in Damascus Wednesday, is expected to leave for Lebanon Saturday. He is also scheduled to visit Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel.



Mahmoud Al Kayed Al Ra'i editor elected JA president

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Ra'i's Chief Editor and Jordan Times board of directors member, Mahmoud Al Kayed, was elected president of the Jordanian Journalists' Association (J.A.) Friday.

Hassan Al Tal, Abdul Salam Al Faravneh and Fakhri Abu Hamdeh have been chosen the association council's members representing newspaper owners. Hashim Khreisat, Mohammad Abu Ghosh and Mohammad Dawoudiah have been elected as representatives of staff reporters and editors, while the elected representatives of the government were Sudqi Al Rimawi, Mussa Al Azuri and Omar Abandah.

The new election follows the implementation of a new journalists' law and formation of a five-member committee to supervise the association's membership and preparations for a new election.

Andropov shows no flexibility in Geneva talks

MOSCOW (R) — President Yuri Andropov's latest comments on the arms question suggest he is planning no new moves to break the deadlock over medium-range nuclear missiles. Western diplomats said Friday.

They were commenting on the Soviet leader's meeting with nine U.S. senators Thursday, at which he called for an accord with Washington banning anti-satellite weapons.

The diplomats said the most significant aspect of the Kremlin talks was not what Mr. Andropov said on space weaponry, but what he failed to say about the so-called "Euromissiles".

"The meeting with the senators would have been a perfect forum for Andropov to announce some new initiative on the missiles," one West European disarmament expert said.

"The fact that he did not do so suggests the Russians will sit tight at their present negotiating position," he added.

U.S.-Soviet negotiations on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe get under way in Geneva again on Sept. 6. It will be last round before the deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe begins.

Western experts had long been speculating that the Kremlin would announce new proposals to break the deadlock at the talks before the Sept. 6 deadline.

The diplomats said there was clearly still time for such a move. But no meetings with important foreign guests or major public gatherings appeared to be planned, and in the past these had always served as the setting for new initiatives.

They added that Mr. Andropov's remarks on the Euromissile issue to the senators also hinted that the Soviet leadership was reconciled to a continuing stalemate at the Geneva talks and the start of U.S. missile deployments.



Soviet President Yuri Andropov (right) Thursday confers with a nine-member group of visiting American senators (A.P. wirephoto)

Police nab Houston looters

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — More than 100 people have been arrested for looting in central Houston and all city police were called in for extra duty Friday after Hurricane Alicia smashed across the southeast Texas coast, police said.

Six people were killed by the storm and officials estimated property damage at possibly as much as \$1 billion in the area of Houston, the fifth largest U.S. city. A police spokesman said looting of stores began even before the storm passed Thursday, despite winds that reached up to 130 kilometres per hour and blew hundreds of windows out of shops and skyscrapers throughout the business district.

Alicia, the first U.S. hurricane of the 1983 storm season, pounded Houston throughout the day Thursday after sweeping out of the Gulf of Mexico.

MIDDLE EAST

French strike aircraft said due in Chad

PARIS (R) — French air force Jaguar and Mirage planes were expected in N'djamena Friday following the installation of anti-aircraft missiles around the Chad capital's airport, according to French press reports.

There was no immediate comment from the defence ministry on the reports, which appeared in the left-wing Liberation and the conservative daily Le Figaro.

Liberation quoted reporters as saying they had seen Crotale anti-aircraft defences installed around the airport at N'djamena, and said it had learned that Jaguar strike aircraft and the Mirage fighters needed to protect them would arrive Friday.

Le Figaro quoted informed sources as saying the planes would stay in N'djamena for a limited period, but did not say how long. They are already between 800 and 1,200 French troops in Chad to aid the forces of President Hissene Habre who is fighting a civil war against Libyan-backed rebels.

France normally has four Jaguars based in Libreville, Gabon, but informed military sources said there were now about 12 in bases around Chad, as well as about a dozen Mirage interceptors.

President Habre has several times asked for French air support.

Earlier this month, Libyan jets were reported to have flown missions to back Libyan troops and former President Goukouni Oueddei's rebels as they seized the strategic northern oasis town of Faya-Largeau.

Political commentators here said the French move, if confirmed, would represent a major step in French efforts to dissuade the rebels from pushing further south towards the capital.

A force of 450 French Marines flew Thursday to the Central African Republic bordering Chad. Military sources said they could be moved swiftly from there to reinforce their comrades in Chad, although French Defence Minister Charles Hernu said he did not think they would be called on.

The French forces have officially been sent to Chad as instructors but are now deployed at strategic points in the east and west of the country. The military sources said the total number could quickly exceed 2,000.

Chad Thursday called for more French aid, saying Libya was still



An armed Chadian guard keeps a close watch on a group of rebel prisoners in the capital, N'djamena. (A.P. wirephoto)

moving arms and ammunition into the northern town of Faya-Largeau, captured by rebel forces last week.

At a press conference in Tunisia, where he had talks on regional cooperation, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi repeated denials that Libyan forces were involved in the Chad War.

The United States estimates Libya has 2,500 troops in Chad backing Mr. Goukouni's rebels.

The French domestic news agency Agence France Presse (AFP), quoting informed military sources, said France had placed a gunboat ordered by Libya under

surveillance in the western French port of Lorient.

The vessel was being equipped with missiles, guns and sophisticated radar equipment. A crew of about 30 Libyans, who had come to France to sail the boat back to their country, were on board, AFP said.

There have been at least eight newspaper closures since the coup, usually for periods of about three weeks, but this is the first time two national papers have been closed at the same time.

British MPs' visit

LONDON (R) — Three British left-wing Members of Parliament plan to start a six-day visit to Turkey this weekend to investigate allegations of human rights abuses.

Labour member Chris Smith said Friday that he and Clare Short and Alex Lyon, a former minister, hoped to visit jails to check allegations of beatings and torture of political detainees.

The committee for the defence of democratic rights in Turkey, a London-based Turkish left-wing pressure group, is sponsoring the visit. The group said it was the most powerful delegation from Britain since the 1980 military coup in Turkey.

Mr. Smith told a press conference Friday he had asked for a meeting with Turkish Interior Minister Selahattin Cetiner and planned to meet relatives of people in jail as well as lawyers, journalists and government officials.

Two days before Milliyet was closed, he wrote that if the ruling

generals allowed only two parties into parliament after elections set for Nov. 6, as many believe they intend, then Turkey was liable to be cold-shouldered by the European Community and the Council of Europe.

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Pakistani riots continue

KARACHI (R) — Several hundred people protesting against martial law in Pakistan tore up more than 500 metres of railway track in Sind Province during the night, railway officials said Friday.

A pilot engine travelling in front of trains to check the track was derailed, they said.

Police had moved into the area and were arresting dozens of people from surrounding villages and towns.

Railway stations and lines have been a frequent target for protesters in Sind Province, where protests against President Zia-ul-Haq's six years of military government have been the most violent. Eleven people have been killed in rioting so far.

Opposition sources said more railway workers in Sind were from the Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province. The attacks appeared also to reflect Sindhi resentment against what they regard as discrimination against them in the government and the armed forces.

The authorities have sent the troops to the towns of Dadu, Viro, Kazi Ahmad, Naushahro Feroz, Jacobabad and Larkana, which have all seen violent protests against the government of President Zia-ul-Haq this week.

Last Sunday, the opposition Movement for the Restoration of

Democracy (MRD), an alliance of eight banned political parties, launched a civil disobedience campaign to demand an end to six years of military rule.

The incident at Naushahro Feroz was the most serious reported Thursday. The official statement said the crowd set fire to a hotel and damaged a bank and a government telephone exchange. The authorities arrested 35 people there, it added.

In Peshawar, capital of the North West Frontier Province, police Thursday arrested at least 55 members of one MRD component, the National Democratic Party (NDP), including party Secretary General Ghulam Ahmad Bilore.

Harsh sentences

In Karachi a military court sentenced 10 people to one year's hard labour and 10 lashes each for forming what an official statement described as an unlawful political assembly last Monday.

Military courts in five Sind cities have sentenced 29 people to floggings over the past three days, according to official notices issued Friday.

The high court in Lahore and district bar associations meanwhile called on lawyers to wear black armbands on Aug. 24 to protest against floggings and mass arrests.

7 military forces bring sophisticated weaponry to Africa's poorest country

N'DJAMENA (R) — The rapid escalation of the Chad conflict has brought an awesome arsenal of fire-power to Africa's poorest country and seven military contingents are now directly involved.

Two months ago, at the start of the latest round of Chad's 17-year-old civil war, President Hissene Habre and rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei had modest and roughly-equivalent means at their disposal.

The two armies numbered up to 5,000 men each and relied on jeeps and Land Rovers mounted with heavy machine guns to wage their old-fashioned desert war.

Mr. Habre's air force consisted of one DC-4, looking older than its 35 years.

But Libya raised the stakes by giving Mr. Goukouni sophisticated military and logistical support, helping him to oust government forces from the north.

In retaliation France, the United States and Zaire bolstered Mr. Habre's side and the conflict entered a dangerous new phase.

Here is an outline of the present military deployments in and around the Central African country:

Pro-government units

Mr. Habre's army, the FANT — after losses through casualties, capture and desertions now thought to number about 4,000 men. The president can rely on 2,500 of his fellow-Gorane tribesmen who are experienced desert fighters but untrained in modern

weapons. The rest of the FANT are southerners whose loyalty to the regime is questionable and who are unused to desert warfare.

France — up to 1,000 paratroopers of a contingent which may rise to 3,000 according to French press reports. Several hundred already deployed in forward positions at Arada, Salal, Bittine and Abeche on the east-west line dividing the country. Armed with 20mm cannon, anti-tank missile launchers.

Their role, under terms of 1976 defence agreement with Chad, is to train Chadians in anti-tank and anti-aircraft weaponry but they will fight if attacked. France has so far refused Mr. Habre's request for air cover, but has Jaguar fighter-bombers stationed nearby at Bougar, Central African republic, and other air bases in Gabon, Senegal, and Djibouti.

United States — >25 million of emergency aid either spent or pledged for weapons, jeeps and uniforms, some of it destined for Zaire's pro-Habre contingent.

Two AWACS radar surveillance planes sent to neighbouring Sudan, with F-15 fighter cover, ready to give support in event of French air involvement in Chad. Military instructors sent to N'djamena in July to train Chadians in use of Redeye ground-to-air missiles. They ended their assignment on Aug. 3.

Zaire — up to 2,700 paratroopers and commandos, most trained by French instructors.

Libyan armed forces — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi says his army is not involved despite mounting evidence to the contrary. The U.S. State Department said on Aug. 15 that 2,500 Libyan regulars were inside Chad, but did not specify how many were based in the Aouzou Strip, the 100,000 square-kilometre region bordering Libya which Col. Qadhafi has occupied since 1973. Libyan fighters bombed northern town of Faya-Largeau when Mr. Habre controlled it, diplomats reported. Libya has supplied arms, vehicles and technical back-up to Mr. Oueddei.

Islamic Legion — this Libyan-based force has 2,500 men in Chad, according to Mr. Habre, made up of dissidents from several African countries.

They arrived in July, with three Mirage jets and three Macchi trainer-fighters, but neither men nor aircraft have taken part in the fighting, according to the government. Poorly-armed apart from their personal weapons and barracked in N'djamena until some units were recently sent to Abeche, the key eastern city some 700 kilometres from N'djamena.

Rebel forces

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Libyan armed forces — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi says his army is not involved despite mounting evidence to the contrary. The U.S. State Department said on Aug. 15 that 2,500 Libyan regulars were inside Chad, but did not specify how many were based in the Aouzou Strip, the 100,000 square-kilometre region bordering Libya which Col. Qadhafi has occupied since 1973. Libyan fighters bombed northern town of Faya-Largeau when Mr. Habre controlled it, diplomats reported. Libya has supplied arms, vehicles and technical back-up to Mr. Oueddei.

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4 Istanbul journalists taken for questioning

ISTANBUL (R) — Istanbul martial law authorities Friday summoned for questioning two editors and two columnists of the banned Turkish newspapers Tercuman and Milliyet, editors said.

Columnist Nazli Ilıcak and senior editor Nazli Sakman of the right-of-centre daily Tercuman, indefinitely closed on Aug. 10, were ordered to appear before the martial law prosecutor at the start of investigations which could lead to prosecution. Tercuman's editor-in-chief Aydogdu Ilter said.

Dogan Heper, Editor-in-chief of the conservative Milliyet, said he and columnist Metin Tokur were also ordered to see the prosecutor. Milliyet was indefinitely closed three days ago.

Ilıcak and Tokur, both well-known and respected columnists, wrote articles shortly before their papers were closed critical of the military government's handling of the promised return to elected government.

They are likely to face prosecution and short jail terms. Mr. Ilıcak has already served a three-month sentence on a previous case since the 1980 coup.

The day Tercuman was closed, Ilıcak wrote in her column that countries with military dictatorships stood in the second division of world nations.

Mr. Tokur is the son-in-law of late president Ismet Inönü.

Two days before Milliyet was closed, he wrote that if the ruling

generals allowed only two parties into parliament after elections set for Nov. 6, as many believe they intend, then Turkey was liable to be cold-shouldered by the European Community and the Council of Europe.

There have been at least eight newspaper closures since the coup, usually for periods of about three weeks, but this is the first time two national papers have been closed at the same time.

British MPs' visit

LONDON (R) — Three British left-wing Members of Parliament plan to start a six-day visit to Turkey this weekend to investigate allegations of human rights abuses.

Labour member Chris Smith said Friday that he and Clare Short and Alex Lyon, a former minister, hoped to visit jails to check allegations of beatings and torture of political detainees.

The committee for the defence of democratic rights in Turkey, a London-based Turkish left-wing pressure group, is sponsoring the visit. The group said it was the most powerful delegation from Britain since the 1980 military coup in Turkey.

Mr. Smith told a press conference Friday he had asked for a meeting with Turkish Interior Minister Selahattin Cetiner and planned to meet relatives of people in jail as well as lawyers, journalists and government officials.

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Israel reacts sharply to U.S. statement

By David Shipper

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel's foreign ministry and Mayor Teddy Kollek of occupied Jerusalem have reacted sharply to a State Department spokesman's remark Tuesday that the United States had never recognised the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem.

The American statement came after Kuwait was reported to have rejected the Reagan administration's selection of a career diplomat, Brandon H. Grove Jr., as ambassador to that country, because he had served as consul general in occupied Jerusalem.

The Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement: "Jerusalem is one city, indivisible and the capital of the state of Israel. This is and will remain the status of Jerusalem."

The Israeli statement expressed "puzzlement" at the State Department spokesman's contention that the American position on occupied Jerusalem had been consistent for three decades.

It is precisely to avoid endorsing the Israeli control over occupied Jerusalem that the United States maintains a consulate in the city entirely independent from its embassy in Tel Aviv.

Washington (Agencies) — At a news briefing at the U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg declined to comment on news reports that indicate Israel may provide security assistance to El Salvador under a programme of expanded cooperation.

Nor would Mr. Romberg comment on the Israeli decision to reopen its embassy in San Salvador while El Salvador shifts its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

The deputy spokesman emphasised that those were bilateral issues between the two governments involved.

Mr. Romberg said the United States was not consulted on the planned move of the Salvadoran embassy to occupied Jerusalem and said "the question of security

assistance from Israel to El Salvador is really a bilateral matter." He noted that prior U.S. approval would be required for any country to transfer U.S.-origin arms or arms with U.S. supplies components to a third country.

"The United States has not approved any Israeli requests to transfer U.S.-origin arms to El Salvador or any other Latin American country," Mr. Romberg said.

"Israeli arms from non-U.S. sources or produced in Israel without American components would not require prior U.S. approval," he added.

The deputy spokesman noted that U.S. policy with respect to occupied Jerusalem has been consistent for more than three decades.

"In our view, the final status of Jerusalem must be resolved in

negotiations among the parties concerned in the context of a comprehensive, just and lasting Middle East peace. Our position is that Jerusalem should remain undivided with free access to the holy places," Mr. Romberg said.

"In accordance with this policy, and pending a resolution of Jerusalem's status, our embassy is located in Tel Aviv."

In response to questioning, Mr. Romberg reiterated that the United States favours an agreement on a verifiable regional basis that would include cessation of offensive weapons shipments to Central America.

But he said such a situation does not now exist, and he refused to discuss the reported plans for Israeli military assistance to El Salvador in such a context.

No Soviet role

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir after returning from Romania, said there will be no role for the Soviet Union in a Middle East peace settlement.

Romania is the only East European country that has relations with Israel, Mr. Shamir said he asked Romanian help in renewing Israel's contacts with other Warsaw Pact countries.

Speaking to reporters, he said Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu had argued that a solution is impossible without Soviet participation.

'Israeli-Salvadorean links bilateral'

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The deputy spokesman

HOME NEWS

July 1 slated as Palestinian Folklore Day by committee

AMMAN (Petra) — The coordinating office of the five regional international activities committees formed by the International Palestinian Folklore Day Committee Thursday appealed to the people of the world to observe July 1 as the world day for the preservation of Palestinian folklore and to hold celebrations

on to mark this annual occasion.

The appeal which was made in a document declaring Palestinian folklore day together with explanations of the committee's aims and philosophy, was addressed to the free minded people of the globe.

The appeal, issued here Thursday in the five languages used by

the respective international committees, aims at promoting solidarity with the Palestinian people and their just rights to return to their homeland and establish an independent state, as well as securing a world contribution to the Palestinian struggle for preserving their cultural tradition and national identity.

Agri film due for release

AMMAN (Petra) — A documentary film on agriculture in Jordan is to be released under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture. The film is to be financed by local agricultural companies.

A meeting held at the Ministry of Agriculture Thursday discussed steps for production after footage shot so far had been supplied by ministry directorates other agricultural institutions. The meeting was attended by ministry heads of departments, a Jordan Cooperative Society representative and technicians working on the film.

Health Council seeks ways to boost recruitment to nursing profession

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Health Council discussed in a meeting held at the Directorate of Royal Medical Services issues related to the nursing profession in Jordan and ways of increasing recruitment.

The meeting, presided over by Minister of Health Dr. Zuhair Mahas, decided to contact the Ministry of Information to prepare a media campaign to help make the nursing profession more attractive to young and to familiarise potential applicants with the privileges and social value of

the profession.

The council also decided to allow qualified nurses, unable to work full-time, to work shorter hours until the need for new nurses is satisfied.

A decision to increase the number of kindergartens and creches in hospitals to look after nurses' children while they are at work was also adopted by the meeting, while the creation of material and moral incentives to particularly dedicated nurses was also approved.

King swears in ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — Four new ambassadors to India, the Yemen Arab Republic, Chile and Japan were sworn in front of His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Court Thursday. Mohammad Ali Khorma, Zuhair Sakkiha, Sami Al Farah and Sa'd Al Bataineh have been appointed to these posts respectively.

The swearing in ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi, Court Minister Amer Khammash and Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem.



Four new Jordanian ambassadors are sworn in Thursday in the presence of His Majesty King Hussein with Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem (second from right) and Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi (to his right) in attendance (Petra photo)

Eleven die in road accidents last week

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Directorate sources Thursday said car accidents occurring in Jordan during last week totalled 189, in which eleven people were killed and 138 others injured. The sources added that 110 of these accidents took place in Amman, while 44 others occurred in its suburbs.

3rd armoured division puts on sports day

AMMAN (Petra) — The Third Royal Armoured Division held its annual sports day Wednesday at the Royal Artillery Corp playing fields.

One of the senior divisional officers made a speech in which he praised the interest shown in military sport by the Jordan Armed Forces and stressed the importance of sport in maintaining the fitness and morale of the armed forces.

The festival included a number

Hussein, Noor visit Jerash Festival troupe

JERASH (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Wednesday evening attended a performance by the Egyptian Rihla Folklore Troupe given at Jerash's Southern Theatre as part of the Second Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

The performance included songs, oriental music and expressionist folklore dances. The performance was also attended in Their Majesties's company a number of Royal Family members and the Chief of the Royal Court, Ahmad Al Lawzi.

Judge ends visit to GDR

AMMAN (Petra) — The Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Al Qattan Friday concluded a 10-day visit to the German Democratic Republic (GDR). During his visit, Sheikh Qattan held talks with the President of German Democratic Republic-Arab Friendship Societies, deputy foreign minister, minister of state for Arab affairs, chief of the supreme court and other officials.

Children's events turn festival into a memorable family outing

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

Sensibly timed in the early evenings before tired children fell asleep from the excitement and activity of the festival, a series of Arabic plays for children have been staged in the Sound and Light Theatre of the Jerash Festival. The plays covering various topics were delightfully presented by both adults and children in attractive costumes, receiving wide-eyed, rapt attention from the

mixed audience of parents and their offspring.

Particularly enjoyable was 'Al-Assad' directed by Akram Abu Ragheb, which incorporated acting, singing and dancing to put across that, although man possesses superior intelligence to the animals, he should not mistreat them. This moral was charmingly portrayed by children dressed as various animals including a rabbit, donkey and dog, who brought a young boy accused of cruelty to

animals before the lion for judgement. The lion however was tricked into entering a cage and trapped by the boy, illustrating his superiority over even the king of the animals. The play ended happily with the boy realising the error of his ways and joining in with the animals in a lively song and dance. The play also used a trio of youngsters in pixie costumes who sang the choruses, giving the play a fairy-tale quality.

Proud parents were noticed tak-



Jerash Festival

ing photographs of their children on the colourful stage with trees and flowers for the scenery.

The 'Shishan Kids' troupe were assembled specially for the festival and presented a programme of songs and dances from the heritage of the Shishan Caucasian Community in Jordan. Clad in bright red and black traditional costumes they cheerfully danced Russian-style numbers with a series of leaps landing on their knees. Respect for their elders was shown in one dance in which an old white-haired man joined in with the boys, while war was portrayed in another. The young Shishan boys regularly dance at weddings and festive occasions but trained specially for the festival.

Children have been well-catered for at the festival with a playground, reading tent, storytelling, display of educational toys and entertainments such as the Arabic plays and the wonderful puppet show by Wafa Qusous which enchanted the audience. It is no wonder that exhausted children can be seen being carried home asleep after all the events of the day. The participation of children in shows and the facilities provided for them have made the festival a family outing in addition to a cultural event.

The last children's play entitled 'Watan Al-Asafir' directed by Naim Haddadin can be seen this evening (Saturday) in the Sound and Light Theatre from 5.00-6.30 p.m.



A play for children entitled 'Al-Assad' directed by Akram Abu Ragheb which charmed its audience with its moral against speciesism (Photo Anne Counsell)

Flirtation, humour Egyptian dance themes

The Reda Dance Troupe of Egypt gave their second performance in front of King Hussein on Wednesday at Jerash, 19 years after their first one which was staged in the Roman amphitheatre downtown in Amman. They are currently filling the South Theatre at the Jerash Festival where they present a colourful variety show including dance, song and humorous sketches based on traditional folklore but incorporating modern costume design and choreography.

Mahmoud Reda, the director of the group, established the Reda troupe in 1959, introducing the art of presenting Egyptian folklore on the stage. In an interview with the Jordan Times he explained that traditional costumes on stage were not authentic, and that the group used specially-made modern clothes based on traditional styles. Farida Fahmy designs the costumes for the group in addition to performing dance solos.

The group consists of 80 members, 30 musicians and 50 singers and dancers, although the full complement is not present at the festival. Those that are here however present a lively programme including a flirtatious scene where the women peep behind their veils

and use expressive hip movements to attract the attention of the young men in the marketplace. Leaving their urns the women dance with the men who jump over the urns and drink from them. They happily dance until interrupted by the village policeman who chastises the women for their behaviour. They succeed however in getting him to dance and join in with the fun. Flirting and humour are evident in another dance which includes a comic scene of clowning using an umbrella as a flute, and a mock fight where instruments provide sound effects for the slaps. The scene is conducted in front of the orchestra on the ground below the stage and shows a young woman who flirts with 3 men by blindfolding them with scarves. Whilst they are groping around trying to find the woman her husband appears and in turn the 3 men end up grasping the husband by mistake. They use exaggerated facial expressions to express their delight in finding her until the truth is revealed when the blindfolds are removed.

The capacity crowd thoroughly enjoyed the scenario and also the solo dances, group dances and the singing showing their appreciation by whistling and joining in with

the clapping. Thursday's show ended with a stick dance based on paintings and engravings found on the walls of temples 7,000 years old. Bamboo staffs were banged on the ground and crossed in the air by the men with the women dancing round them in orange and black costumes using the stage as well as the area beneath. This colourful dance provided an exciting finale to the varied and imaginative show.

It can easily be understood why the Reda troupe enjoy regular seasons at the Balloon Theatre in Cairo in addition to tours abroad. The group were originally self-financed but are now sponsored by the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. Mr. Reda is the Under Secretary of State for Culture with the troupe as one of his responsibilities, and although he no

longer dances with them he is still active in their supervision and training.

The Reda troupe can be seen tonight (Saturday) the last evening of the festival at 10.15 in the South Theatre following the rescheduled Fairuz concert which starts at 7.30.

Jordan through History Fashion Show will be at the Artemis Steps at 7.30 where they are replacing the Bangladesh troupe who could not attend the festival.

A. C.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

THURSDAY'S

Al Ra'i: Wrong Arab reply

THE SECOND blow directed against the Arabs in Africa came with Liberia's announcement of its resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel. The first blow was dealt to the Arabs when Zaïre, a few months ago, took a similar step. Strangely enough the Arabs' only reaction was to issue a statement denouncing this action on the part of these African states. The Arabs would do better if they realised that these developments have come about as a direct result of their divisions and differences. The real reply to such developments would be solidarity and unity among Arab ranks in such a manner as to convince the African states not to allow the Israeli octopus to return to the black continent. Instead of acting to stem Israel's infiltration of Africa, the Arabs are busy with their own little wars in Chad, in the Western Sahara and in Lebanon — which gives Israel the opportunity to re-enter Africa step by step.

Israel could not have found its way back into Africa without U.S. assistance and encouragement. This is not only a provocative action against the Arabs but yet further proof that the U.S. and Israel have common goals and interests. All the "criticism" which Washington sometimes makes of Israel's actions, is no more than an appeasement of the Arabs. Israel's infiltration in Africa, its military and economic assistance to a number of its states and U.S. help in this respect constitute a real danger to all the Arabs states. Perhaps this will be another incentive for the Arabs to wake up and do something to abort Israel's designs and protect their own interests in the future.

Sawt Al Shaab: The need for dialogue

THE ONLY solution for the Lebanese crisis lies in a national reconciliation which can only be achieved through a dialogue among various factions in the country. A reconciliation means finding a formula acceptable to all parties and above all serving the national interests. Jordan and Saudi Arabia have been urging the Beirut government to open a dialogue with the Druze and other opposition parties to try to meet their demands in a bid towards bringing about a reconciliation and restoring unity. The central government can succeed in reuniting the country only if it reaches a compromise with the opposition. The other Arab states, which so far have failed to stop the civil war and end the internal conflict, can at least help in healing the wounds of Lebanon and bringing about a reconciliation in the positive and constructive manner.

The Beirut government must realise that Syria has rejecting a call for a withdrawal of foreign forces and has supported the opposition parties in Lebanon because of the failure of this government to meet the demands of the other parties like the Druze. For that reason also Syria has been objecting to the stationing of Lebanese army units in the Shouf mountains after a partial Israeli withdrawal from that region. Therefore, we hope that the central government in Beirut and all the other parties will reach a consensus on holding a dialogue for the best interest of their own country.

FRIDAY'S

Al Ra'i: Israel's negative approach

ISRAEL'S FOREIGN Minister Yitzhak Shamir has tactically proposed that the Zionist state is ready to approve of an international forum for restoring peace and stability in the Middle East, provided that such a forum is preceded by the signing of agreements on details between Israel and interested parties in the region. No details of such agreements were given by Shamir.

Shamir's Bucharest statement on the conclusion of his talks in the Romanian capital can be nothing but an attempt at improving Israel's image in the countries of the socialist community, as relations with most of these countries have been cut since Israel's aggression against the Arabs in June 1967. Needless to say, Israel has invariably stood against the convention of an international conference on the Middle East as called for by the late Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev. It was Israel who insisted on a unilateral role for the U.S. in dealing with Middle Eastern peace. Nonetheless, once President Reagan presented his peace initiative to the region as a whole, it was Israel who unhesitatingly proclaimed its opposition to the initiative, and who did everything in its power to impede its progress.

Hence, it is now obvious that Israel is mainly interested in foiling any attempt at seeking peace in the region, whether originating in Moscow, Washington or Fez, where the Arab states unanimously agreed to an overall formula for peace in the region. The no-peace no-war conditions are the most preferable for Israel's expansionist ambitions, as the course of events proves. Hence, it is worth questioning whether the Israeli-Romanian contacts will lead any where but up the same cul de sac that Israel has invariably driven previous peace efforts.

Al Dustour: A high price to pay

ISRAELI FOREIGN Minister Yitzhak Shamir tried to sound credible while indirectly rejecting the Romanian call to convene an international conference on the Middle East, which the Soviet Union has traditionally advocated. Shamir tried to justify Israel's rejection of the very concept of such a conference by claiming that the suspended diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel do not allow for the convening of such a conference.

Although it is not easy to predict the Soviet Union's response to such a remark, it is obvious that Israel is now trying to break the isolation that has surrounded it since the 1967 June war. Israel's allegedly "positive attitude" on Lebanon and the "achievement of peace" with Egypt may be introduced by Israel as an argument for asking the Soviet Union to revise its position on Israel. Such an argument has been useful to Israel in restoring diplomatic relations with Zaïre and Liberia, which has hence led to the Israeli's fanciful ideas of restoring relations with the socialist countries.

It is obvious that what Israel has achieved with some African states will not be that easily gained in relation to the socialist countries. Seeing the difficulty, Shamir tried to approach the Soviet Union, as this will facilitate contact with the other socialist countries. Nonetheless, we think that, although the Soviet Union is seriously concerned about having a role in a Middle East settlement, it is uncertain that the Soviets are ready to pay such a high price for it by restoring diplomatic relations with the Zionist state.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Why Libya in particular?

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — Other than Central America, the only other place in the world where the U.S. might get involved in military hostilities is Libya. U.S. aircraft carriers have been sailing up and down the Libyan coast for years, and naval attack planes launched from those carriers have every once in a while made threatening gestures towards Libya. Now again, because of the trouble in Chad, those carriers are again in or near the Gulf of Sidra.

Why, at a time the U.S. seems to want to improve its ties with Syria in order to achieve some all-sided settlement of the Lebanese situation, would the U.S. risk a military clash with Muammar Qadhafi?

There is no credible explanation from official U.S. policy, beyond the hackneyed statements about Qadhafi making trouble beyond his borders. Nor is the usual U.S. allegation that Libya is a Soviet client state in a strategic area of the Middle East. That same argu-

ment could, if one wanted to, be made in regard to Syria with its several thousand Soviet advisers. Yet the U.S. says nothing about that, and even lauding Syria's independent role.

There is an old American word: Whipping boy. It means that if the parents of many children finally get exasperated with too much trouble (trouble that has nothing to do with them), they start whipping one particular boy. No matter that the whipping boy has done nothing, he still gets the whipping. It makes the parents feel better; the other children quiet down; and the whipping boy just shrugs his shoulders, rubs his sore buttocks, and forgets about it. It just happens to be his bad luck to have been made to play the role of whipping boy in his family.

Is Libya the whipping boy of the U.S. in the Middle East? The analogy is tempting. The Middle East is giving the U.S. a lot of trouble. The biggest trouble-

some comes from America's "close friend," Israel. The tricky Israelis keep on giving the U.S. nasty surprises, but there is no way the U.S. can spank its "favourite" Mideastern child. Then there are the various Arab states and the PLO. From Washington's point of view, they are like some juggler's slippery balls. For the act to work, all the balls have to go up and down harmoniously, but in reality some balls stay up only if others fall down, making for a very unattractive scene.

The only Arab "ball" the U.S. has no interest in juggling is Qadhafi's Libya. Libya fits into no American scheme for the Middle East, and the predominant image it has in Washington shared by liberals and conservatives is that Libya is nothing but a political trouble-maker and an economic oil exporter. That therefore makes Qadhafi an excellent whipping boy. For that there is what we Americans have long prized in foreign pol-

icy: Bipartisan consensus.

Washington has compiled a long list of Qadhafi's trouble-making. First, Libya is totally hard-line on Israel. Second, Qadhafi is seen as having Napoleonic ambitions in Africa. Third, he is seen as wanting to destroy moderate and even radical Arab governments. Fourth, Qadhafi has sent people to assassinate opponents in foreign countries, including the U.S. And lately, he is seen as an enemy of the moderate forces in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), led by Yasser Arafat. Qadhafi is therefore a very bad boy who deserves to be whipped.

It would be correct to say that 99.999 per cent of Americans never heard of Chad. And even if they read the word in the newspapers, they would have promptly forgotten it.

Now Chad is close to the Sudan and Sudan is seen as vital to U.S. interests because of its link with Egypt, its borders with Ethiopia, and its po-

ential as an area of great agricultural development. Also Jaafar Numeiri is facing trouble from his non-Arab citizens in the south. There are plenty of neo-colonial reasons why the U.S., and France... might want to send in paratroopers and planes to safeguard their interests in that vast and barren land. But Chad's geopolitically strategic position is not why Qadhafi has been chosen as a whipping boy. Chad would just be an excuse for the U.S. to give Qadhafi a whipping.

Qadhafi has plenty of qualities official Washington detests: He is a Muslim revolutionary (like Khomeini), he looks like some U.S. revolutionaries from the days of the troubles of the 1960's within the U.S. He derides the U.S., he has outlawed signs in English in a country that exports much of its oil through U.S. multinationals, and so on. But again, Qadhafi's bad image

is not the ultimate reason why he has been chosen. The real reason appears to be that, for all his grandiose talk, there is not much Muammar Qadhafi can do. Libya is a tiny country, two strips of land on the Mediterranean. Qadhafi has no following outside of his own country, unlike a decade or two ago when he was immensely popular in Egypt. His attempts to play an African leadership role have backfired. Some prominent Americans like him or his country, like former President Carter's brother, Billy. But in fact Qadhafi is a small and lonely international figure.

There may be people in Washington who believe that giving Qadhafi a good whipping, like some air strikes to take out Libyan military facilities, would be a cheap and safe victory. The anthem of the U.S. Marines has, right in the beginning, the words: "... to the shores of Tripoli." That is Tripoli in what is now Libya.

Judge Clark does to Shultz what Kissinger had done to Rogers

William Clark seems to have the upper hand in American foreign policymaking

It has happened before. Just as Henry Kissinger, as national security adviser, soon eclipsed William Rogers as secretary of state and Zbigniew Brzezinski came to overshadow Cyrus Vance, now William Clark is arrogating to himself power and influence over foreign policy at the expense of George Shultz. It is not an inevitable process. John Foster Dulles, Dean Acheson and, indeed, Henry Kissinger after he moved from the national security adviser's office to that of secretary of state never allowed themselves to be upstaged by anybody in foreign affairs (unless it was the president himself). Nor is it irreversible. Mr. Shultz may regain much of the authority he has lost. He is anyway far from powerless.

The friend downstairs

It is natural that this president, like others, should come to depend more and more on his national security adviser, the man whose office is just downstairs in the White House and who gives him daily briefings on foreign affairs. For his part, the national security adviser can exercise increasing influence over the president not just by briefing him but also by learning to master the flow of paper from the departments and agencies to the president.

In the case of Mr. Reagan and Mr. Clark, this institutional bond is strengthened by the old friendship of the two men. Mr. Clark was Mr. Reagan's chief of staff when he was governor of California, and Mr. Reagan then made him a judge; he shares Mr. Reagan's conservative outlook and is intensely loyal to the president. The two men are as much at ease with each other socially as they are philosophically: they are both riding companions.

Mr. Reagan is equally comfortable with Mr. Shultz, and there is no suggestion that the two have fallen out. Mr. Shultz's loyalty to the president is absolute. But Mr. Shultz's patient diplomacy sometimes does not keep pace with Mr. Reagan's desire for action and results. Since he became secretary of state just over a year ago, Mr. Shultz has pulled off no spectacular successes for the president, whose conduct of foreign policy will start to be circumscribed by an election campaign within a few months.

Mr. Shultz has learned at first hand that the Middle East is not the place from which to bring home bacon: that Russian arms negotiators have noses that are not just hard but can be turned up — and then thumbed; that there are plenty of banana skins in the republics of Central America. His few achievements have been unexciting for the general public and, perhaps, for the president too: he has calmed the European allies and the Chinese, and started to wrestle with the problems of international economics. This is hardly stuff for the hustings.

So now Mr. Shultz has suffered some reverses in the constant battle over turf in Washington. Mr. Clark is to play a larger policy role in the arms talks with the Russians, through a special new task force under his chairmanship. Mr. Shultz has failed to get his man (Donald Rumsfeld, President Ford's defence secretary) to succeed Philip Habib as special amb-

assador in the Middle East; instead the job has gone to Mr. Clark's able deputy, Robert McFarlane. Two prominent career diplomats, Thomas Enders and Deane Hinton, have been removed from the Central American fray at the behest of the White House; a special, rather political, ambassador for the region — Richard Stone — has been appointed.

And, defying precedent in the making of foreign policy, the president has set up a bipartisan commission to advise on Central America under that old pre-didgitor, Henry Kissinger (admittedly much more a friend of Mr. Shultz than of Mr. Clark, but doing a job that might normally be undertaken by the secretary of state himself).

This is the evidence for the shift of influence away from Mr. Shultz towards Mr. Clark, a shift that would be of interest only to students of government and observers of the Washington merry-go-round were it not for one thing: Mr. Clark may be a quick learner, but his knowledge of foreign affairs is nevertheless limited to what he has learned in the two and a half years he has worked for the administration. He brought to Washington few academic or intellectual qualifications. His relationship with Mr. Reagan has undoubtedly raised morale among the staff of the national security council, but he has not yet dispelled the low expectations that came with his appointment first as deputy secretary of state and then as national security adviser. The worry is that power in foreign affairs has shifted to a relative novice whose inexperience, furthermore, is no longer compensated for by the skills and knowledge of Mr. McFarlane.

An ideologue, but with fences to mend

This may alarm Reagan-watchers: it should not surprise them. In foreign affairs, Mr. Reagan has always had a Manichaean view of the world in which the Soviet Union is the predominant force of darkness, the United States the predominant force of light. It is a view consistently held by Broderick Reagan, Candidate Reagan and President Reagan. It is a simplification of a moral reality, but it is not a view that allows for many diplomatic subtleties. No wonder then that the president has grown impatient with the plodding professionals of the State Department, always trying to explain why foreigners see things another way. No wonder that he should find Mr. Clark a more congenial executant of his policies. Mr. Reagan has strong ideological views; so does Mr. Clark. Mr. Shultz, conservative though he is, does not.

Mr. Reagan is not all ideologue, of course. He is a shrewd politician who knows that compromises must sometimes be made in politics. That is why he is now openly seeking to mend fences with so many of the groups he has recently offended — women, blacks, the poor, environmentalists, for instance. He may instinctively rein in Mr. Clark if he feels that his incisiveness is getting out of hand. And he will surely not test Mr. Shultz, who remains the giant of his administration, beyond endurance.

— The Economist.



Colombo denies instigation of violence

By Jeremy Clift
Reuter

NEW DELHI — Sri Lanka's week of ethnic bloodshed last month has deepened the racial divide on the island off the southern tip of India and highlighted worrying indiscipline within the armed forces.

Just nine months after being re-elected for a second six-year term, President Junius Jayewardene is now battling to restore confidence in the military, repair the island's battered economy and patch up damaged relations with India.

In public, ministers have rallied around the 77-year-old leader after the worst race riots since independence in 1948 and the biggest challenge to the authority of the state since an abortive armed insurrection against former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 1971.

But Western diplomats and local political analysts in Colombo say the government is factually divided, with several ministers jockeying for position in the contest to become Mr. Jayewardene's eventual successor.

The wave of bloodshed, in which majority Sinhalese attacked the shops and houses of the minority Tamil community, left more than 380 people dead, at least 100 factories worth \$80 million in ruins, and 100,000 people homeless.

The government, claiming it

was the victim of a foreign masterminded plot to overthrow it, banned three leftist parties and amended the constitution to make secessionist groups illegal.

This effectively outlawed the main opposition party in parliament, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), which is campaigning for a separate state for the island's Tamils and has since announced its 16 members will boycott the assembly.

Behind the unrest were disturbing revelations of indiscipline within the military. The government itself admitted that the armed forces had joined in attacks on Tamils.

Mr. Jayewardene told reporters the armed forces, which number 16,000 men, had in some cases encouraged rioting because of anti-Tamil feeling following a Tamil guerrilla attack on July 23 in which 13 soldiers died in the northern district of Jaffna.

It was that attack which triggered the bloodshed. The government has acknowledged that in at least two cases military personnel participated in attacks on Tamil people or property.

In the eastern naval port of Trincomalee more than 150 naval personnel broke out of barracks and rampaged through the town. According to TULF almost 200 Tamil shops and homes there were ransacked.

In Jaffna, soldiers went on a revenge sortie after the killing of their 13 comrades. According to the government 20 people died in the town. TULF puts the figure at 50.

TULF also alleges prison authorities and army personnel were involved in the murder of 52 Tamil guerrilla prisoners in a top security jail in Colombo on Monday and Wednesday after the July 23 killings.

An official inquiry found that several hundred Sinhalese prisoners had overpowered their wardens to beat the Tamil inmates to death.

But a TULF statement charged: "The government has not in any way displaced our belief that the deliberate murder of political prisoners."

TULF also alleged that "army personnel actively encouraged arson and looting of business establishments and homes in Colombo and took absolutely no action to apprehend or prevent the criminal elements involved in these activities."

Mr. Jayewardene has said he believes some leftist army officers were involved in the alleged plot to overthrow his pro-Western government.

He denied a theory current in Colombo that a right-wing group within his own ruling United Nat-

ional Party (UNP) had any responsibility for the violence, placing the blame squarely on the three outlawed leftist groups.

The bloodshed has strained relations with India, which has a large Tamil population of its own in the south. The president sent his 66-year-old brother, Hector Jayewardene, here for talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

One item on the agenda was an allegation by the Colombo government that India's southern state of Tamil Nadu was being used as a base by Tamil separatist guerrillas for operations against Sri Lanka.

Tamil leaders in Jaffna and southern India were hoping Mr. Gandhi would put pressure on Mr. Jayewardene to make some conciliatory gesture towards the island's Tamil community in the wake of the unrest.

The Sri Lankan government said it had invited TULF to talks before the bloodshed erupted, but it had been forced to outlaw separatists because of the violence.

Ministers are now urging Tamils who oppose division of the island to stand up and be counted, but the de facto banning of TULF could strengthen the guerrillas.

While gestures of conciliation might seem desirable to outsiders, particularly overseas investors anxious for calm, diplomats in Colombo see the president as under increasing pressure from his right-wing and hardline Buddhist Sinhalese.

Congressmen prefer foreign summers

By Jacqueline Frank
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Many U.S. Congressmen will be on the road this summer, using a month-long recess for expensive visits to every continent but Antarctica.

Critics call the trips junkets, but Congressmen say they are necessary to gain first-hand knowledge of international problems and to meet foreign leaders.

The cost of the trips, borne by the taxpayer, is expected to run into hundreds of thousands of dollars, but the true cost may never be known. Although Congressmen must file quarterly expense reports, some of the cost is likely to be paid by the State Department and the Pentagon.

While most members will stay home this recess, many others will be visiting areas of critical importance to the United States.

High-powered congressional delegations will visit the Soviet Union and China.

The growing U.S. involvement in Central America has been attracting congressional visitors all year and several more will be going during the recess.

Others will travel the world to study the problems of developing countries, drugs traffic, economic and trade issues.

Nine Democratic Senators, led by Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, will visit Soviet President Yuri Andropov and other top Soviet officials this week.

Jim Wright of Texas, Democratic leader of the House of Representatives, will lead a six-member delegation to China.

Separately, Washington State Democratic Senator Henry Jackson will be making his fourth trip.

California Senator Alan Cranston, a candidate for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination, and representative Estaban Torres, another California Democrat, will go to Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico to talk about U.S. support for the Contadora group seeking a settlement in Central America.

House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Jones and others will travel to Brazil, Peru and Ecuador to study the problems of debt-ridden developing countries.

Ten members of the House Select Committee on Narcotics will spend two weeks in Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Mexico and Jamaica, discussing U.S. efforts to stop drug traffic.

Howard Wolpe, chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, and seven other members will pay the first congressional visit to Ethiopia since its revolution in 1974.

Senate Banking Committee Chairman Jake Garn and two other committee members are going to Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong to discuss international banking and trade issues.

John Lafolce of the House Banking Committee and other House members plan a trip to Britain, France, West Germany and Belgium to discuss international economic issues and industrial policy.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Kika De La Garza and four others left recently for two weeks in Australia and New Zealand to discuss grain, beef and lamb exports.

But the Congressmen doing the most travelling appears to be Stephen Solarz, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He plans to visit Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, India, Pakistan, Thailand and the Soviet Union.

Fayrouz sings more than beautiful songs



Talking straight Marwan Muasher

"To the Arab World, Fayrouz came... at a time when Arabic singing was weighed down with convention and predictability, and spirit was nationally at their lowest; her voice rang, as though from the beyond, the notes of salvation and joy. Arab music has never been the same since."

Jabra I. Jabra

This week, Fayrouz is in Jordan to sing at the Jerash Festival. I could not pick a better opportunity to talk about the woman whose greatness lies not merely in captivating the souls of millions of Arabs, but also in giving us hope, inspiring change, and in every sense of the word, making us better human beings.

I make no attempt to hide my admiration for Fayrouz. I regard her as the greatest singer to inspire us that ever emerged on the Arab scene. As such, those who are looking for an article detached of emotions will be disappointed. I am sincere in what I write about Fayrouz, though. If I have any apologies, they are for all these feelings that I ran short of putting into words.

I have been a fan of Fayrouz almost all my life. But the first time I saw her live in concert was in Beirut, 1973, when I was a student there. The experience was as

mesmerising as the last time I saw her, in Detroit, Michigan, 1981, when I, together with six friends, drove seven hours to get a chance to listen to her singing.

It is not easy to describe the experience. As soon as she starts singing, she steals you out of your surroundings, and locks you in a world that only her voice, can make you reach. She has this unique talent of cutting through to one's deepest and innermost feelings and bringing one in touch with these feelings. As such, she brings out the best in people, as she is able to make them realise the full depth and intensity of their emotions.

Fayrouz has been called the "Neighbour to the Moon", and "Our Ambassador to the Stars", but I think a more appropriate name is "Our Ambassador to Ourselves". There are so many things that reside in one's deepest feelings that one often knows exist but cannot fully describe. Fayrouz is able, so effortlessly it seems, to, in one moment, bring them out for one to appreciate, so that one does not want her to stop singing lest they fade away. As Samir Sayigh, a Lebanese poet, puts it, "Fayrouz sings of those things which prevail deep within our being, and like our inner voices, defy description."

As one hears her sing, one feels this intimate warmth that drives one to a different world. In the words of the Iraqi poet Sargon Boulous, "In song after song, Fayrouz traces our souls back to their origin; she liberates us with a dream, weds us to mystery."

She does that by a harmonious blend of text, music, and a velvety voice, so vibrant and pure, that are all marked by innovation. Her love songs do not focus heavily on the theme of unrequited love in the traditional, beaten to death, manner that is a characteristic of so many Arab vocalists. Rather, her songs inspire change. The similes, the metaphors, the subject matter she uses all break with tradition, sometimes defying it, with a voice that gives an air of poetic tenderness, of softness and purity that I dare say is unmatched elsewhere in Arab songs. It is a softness that is so often lacking in a place where toughness is so often emphasised, and where people are not expected to get in touch with their feelings. In this sense, she serves as a symbol of change in our society. She constantly opens new arenas for our minds and hearts, challenging our imagination, and, in the words of Elias Khoury, a



Lebanese famous singer Fayrouz

Lebanese author, "arrests memory in her warm breath to take you where you should have been, where you dream to be in the first place."

I am not sure if I can summarise the feelings one experiences when listening to Fayrouz. There is no summary, indeed no words that can encompass these feelings. In Arabic, there is a word, "tarab", to which the closest English word I could find, even though it does not hope to convey the full meaning, is ecstasy. A state of "tarab" to an Arab implies so many things, all good, that are unique to Arab culture and thus that only an Arab can fully appreciate. Fayrouz does exactly that to her audience, every time they listen to her. "Often, singers give listeners pleasure, as they expect, Fayrouz, often gives them, beyond their expectations, ecstasy", so notes the Palestinian writer, Jabra I. Jabra. It is not merely a case of "achieving a high". It is much more intense than that. For it injects you with a

dose of everything you regard noble, and in a moment of "tarab", makes you experience hope, jubilation and a drive for excellence all at once.

Fayrouz gives you the unmistakable feeling of sincerity in every song she performs. She has been criticised in the past for being too still, too unemotional. I have never detected a lack of emotion in her songs, though. It is true that Fayrouz is selective in her use of onstage gestures, but it is because she directs all her emotions to her voice, in contrast with many of our singers who portray false emotions, like smiling broadly while singing about a lost love. We often mistake smiling or waving hands as signs of emotion. Fayrouz is sincere when she sings, and when she does give out an occasional stretch of her arm, or a quick, fiery shake of the shoulders, the crowd's impassioned response tells you what kind of a relationship exists between her and her audience.

And so she certainly conveys

distinct emotions in the various and different kinds of songs she so effortlessly and masterly performs. Thus, she gives an air of tenderness in her love songs, pride in her Bedouin songs, defiance and love in her songs about her country, joy mixed with innocence in her village songs, jubilation in her dabkes, and solemnity in her classical Arabic songs and her "muashahat", those Andalusian songs that she made popular again. But in all of these songs, the common factor is sincerity.

Fayrouz has also been criticised for breaking with tradition. No one, however, has been more effective in reviving the folkloric traditions of her country like Fayrouz did, in a style that gave these traditions new life. Thus, thanks largely to Fayrouz, we are able to enjoy, through her songs, the simplicity of the village with all the values that we so dearly cherish. She and the Rahbanis (her husband and musical group) certainly revolutionised Arab music, but it

was a revolution that had its origins in folklore. And even in instances where it did not, it was a welcomed change, with its success a witness to its popularity and acceptance.

Just as Fayrouz is regarded as a symbol of modernity in the Arab World, she is also seen as an example of the self-respecting, dignified Arab artist. She is widely respected for ever refusing to sing in praise of public and political figures, no matter whom, in a world where such actions are so cheaply common. That in itself shows a lot about her character. Instead, she sings to cities and countries that last beyond any particular figures. She thus sang to Beirut, Amman, Damascus, and of course, Jerusalem, to which she gave some of her most touching songs.

There is not a song by Fayrouz that I dislike. But there is a particular line of songs where Fayrouz deeply moves me. This is her songs about the country. Contrary

to most Arab songs which either hail the country's might, canons and tanks, or use traditional, sometimes unfortunately empty words, Fayrouz sings about the country as an idea, a unity of interests. She places the emphasis where it belongs, on the land rather than on the tribe or on persons. Thus she sings about the beauty of belonging, the yearning to the land, the power that binds man and soil. That makes her songs so effective that other Arabs often find themselves more moved hearing Fayrouz sing about her country, Lebanon, than hearing a traditional song about their own countries. Such is the power of her sincerity. You only have to witness Arabs listening to her in, say the United States, to feel the yearning for their countries that is inspired by Fayrouz, and that for a moment, unites them all. Fayrouz teaches you that you don't have to sound tough to love your country. Rather, you have to have that genuine feeling of belonging that

you can propagate to others, a feeling that makes you proud just to belong to that country, not necessarily to its might or its leaders. Fayrouz is able to bring out these feelings very effectively.

"Her voice conveys all the emotion and the effect is strangely moving for one who cannot understand the language", wrote the Boston Globe during a Fayrouz trip to the United States in 1971. Adds another Argentinian newspaper, "Her very personal contralto tones, her slightly defiant vocalisation, and her queenly being contribute something that captivates even those of us who do not understand the language."

I could go on for ages talking about Fayrouz. But the best way to appreciate her is to hear her sing. I have no better words to end my article with than those of the Lebanese novelist, Emily Nasrallah: "Listening to her, I sometimes wonder: Without her voice, would our world be the same?"

Scotch whisky industry may be facing trouble

By Brian Cathcart
Reuter

DUFFTOWN, Scotland — The Scotch whisky industry may be going through hard times but the distillers here in the highlands are in no danger of losing faith in their product.

"Let's be honest," says Mike Don confidently, his mind's eye ranging over the world's other whiskies, "it's a nicer drink."

Mr. Don is chief engineer at one of the 70 or so distilleries which produce "malt" whisky, the distinctive ingredient of classic Scotch which has made the drink world-famous.

His plant has been working at half its capacity for the last three years because of a slump in world demand but he puts that down to the recession and predicts that when the economic picture improves people will celebrate with Scotch.

As for the imitators, Mr. Don reckons they may come close but they will never match the celebrated flavour of the amber-coloured "dram."

Just what it is that makes Scotch

special is the subject of some argument. Some say it is the water, tapped from local streams for use in the distilling process.

Others say it is the use of peat in drying the malted barley and there are those who put it down to the generations-old skills of the distillers.

Credit to the climate

Mr. Mike Don hands the credit to the climate, which he says plays a vital role as the spirit matures in the barrel. The oak casks "breathe", he explains, allowing some whisky to evaporate, and absorbing moisture from the atmosphere at the same time.

"That makes our wet and miserable weather important, and the climate is one thing it's impossible to reproduce," he says.

It is a modest answer. The spirit's years in the barrel are only a part of a long process which demands infinite care and the best materials.

The distiller starts with barley, which is soaked in water, allowed to germinate and then dried. This "malted" barley is then ground, mixed with hot water and strained

to produce a liquid which, when fermented with yeast, emerges as "wash".

The wash is distilled twice, giving a clear spirit which is matured in barrels and eventually becomes Whisky.

Noble malt

That is whisky-making at its bluntest but it takes more than that to produce a noble malt.

For example, only the best barley is used and the malt drying is done by a studied balance of peat and coal fires.

Fermentation at Mr. Don's distillery, Glenfiddich, is done in vats of Oregon pine and nothing else will do. "It's a bio-chemical process, and we believe the wood has a role to play," he says.

The design of the stills is critical and different heating processes — coal, gas and steam — are thought to affect the flavour through the speed and temperature at which they work.

Another subtle influence on the flavour is the barrels, which are often bought second-hand from the sherry or American bourbon whisky industries.

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SPORTS

English football is back

Liverpool, Manchester United start with Charity Shield

LONDON (R) — To the average English soccer fan, the past 11 weeks have been slow in passing. Saturday afternoon have involved such enthralling pursuits as accompanying wives round supermarkets, mowing lawns, washing windows or putting up those long-promised shelves.

Television and newspaper have been little help. There has been no mention of what Kenny Dalglish and Kevin Keegan have been eating for breakfast, no news of where Charlie Nicholas and Bryan Robson spent their summer holidays.

But all is well. Although the season does not start in earnest until next Saturday, football returns on Saturday with the traditional meeting of the League Champions and F.A. Cup winners — Liverpool and Manchester United — for the Charity Shield at Wembley.

An air of unreality surrounds the match. English spectators are accustomed to huddling together on the terraces under layers of clothing and umbrellas. If the present weather holds, shorts and sunglasses are recommended.

Liverpool, too, will have a strange look about them. Bob Paisley has retired to the directors box and they will be led onto the Wembley turf for the first time by new manager Joe Fagan.

Fagan, 61, has spent a long apprenticeship at Anfield under Paisley and the legendary Bill Shankly and Liverpool will be eager to give him a winning start.

Two other new faces may file out of the Wembley tunnel behind him. Scottish defender Gary Gillespie has joined the champions for £325,000 (£400,000) from Coventry while Fagan spent another £200,000 (£300,000) on Irish international striker Michael Robinson.

Robinson, signed from Brighton, will set a unique record if he plays.

He was in the Brighton line-up which lost to Manchester United in last season's F.A. Cup final after a replay. An appearance in the Charity Shield will mean his last three games have all been at Wembley against the same opponents.

United, second favourites behind Liverpool in every competition, have been linked with a clutch of big-names in recent months.

But Ipswich's Alan Brazil went to Tottenham. Nicholas opted for Arsenal and manager Ron Atkinson's only purchase has been Leeds winger Arthur Graham for what looks a bargain £45,000 (£67,000).

Graham will be given an early chance to stake his claim for a regular first-team berth at Wembley as England international Steve Coppell is still recovering from a lengthy injury.

East German athletics monopoly set to continue

LONDON (R) — Mighty East Germany stand poised to continue their domination of the European Athletics Cup here this weekend after a series of dazzling performances at the inaugural World Championships last week.

The East Germans, who topped the medals table in Helsinki leaving both the United States and the Soviet Union trailing, will field a formidable team in the Group 'A' final at Crystal Palace, including sprint champions Marlies Goehr and Marita Koch and nine other newly-crowned world champions.

There seems little likely to stop the East Germans scoring their seventh successive triumph in the women's competition and a fifth

win in a row in the men's.

But, while few of the seven other competing nations in each event have the collective firepower to pose the holders too many problems, one or two individuals may give them cause for concern.

And there will be no greater threat to East German domination than Czechoslovak powerhouse Jarmila Kratochvilova.

Kratochvilova scooped golds in the women's 400 and 800 metres in Helsinki and snatched Koch's 400 metres world record in the process.

Kratochvilova, who smashed the 800 metres world record just before the world championships, carries the bulk of the Czechoslovak challenge here by going in five events — the 100, 200, 400 and 800 metres plus 4x400 metres relay — to line up an exciting showdown with Koch over 200 metres.

Koch, world record holder over the distance, won the 200 metres gold in Helsinki and ran second to Goehr in the 100 after opting not to run the one-lap race.

Goehr turns out again for the 100 metres here while she and Koch join up with Silke Gladisch and Ingrid Auerwald in the 4x100 metres relay, the same quarter which shattered the world record in Helsinki.

The East German men should have things all their own way with the Soviet Union, who finished just three-and-a-half points behind them in the last cup final in Zagreb two years ago, likely to be the main opposition.

The Soviets include Sergei Litvinov, the hammer world record-holder, but 19-year-old Sergei Bubka, who surprised many by

taking the pole vault gold at the World Championships, is not in the team.

Yet the Soviets were not the force of old in Helsinki and a West European nation could emerge as leading contenders for the trophy.

Pick of the bunch two years ago were Britain, inspired by Olympic champions Sebastian Coe and Allan Wells. But Coe, the 800 metres world record holder, is ruled out this time by illness and Wells, now 31, may find the final a hard slog after his rigorous week in Finland when he finished fourth in both 100 and 200 metres finals.

Steve Ovett, the world 1,500 metres record holder and Olympic 800 metres champion, has been left out of the British team. Instead Steve Cram, who beat Ovett to the 1,500 gold in Helsinki, and Peter Elliott, fourth in the 800 metres last week, both run.

However, even without Coe, Ovett and decathlete Daley Thompson, Britain still look the best of the West European men's teams. Their third place in Zagreb was their best ever and they should be capable of at least equalling the position again.

Britain finished fourth in the women's competition two years ago and they too could well improve on that with the benefit of home support.

Italy, with thoroughbreds like world 10,000 metres champion Alberto Cova and world 200 metres record holder Pietro Mennea among their number, also threaten to do well in the men's event as could the West Germans.

They are led by Willie Wuebeck and Pariz Ilg, men's 800 metres and 3,000 metres steeplechase gold medallists respectively in Helsinki.



Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'n Abu Nowar (centre) attending the opening ceremony on Thursday.

4th Arab Track and Field Championships open in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Fourth Arab Track and Field Championships opened at Al Hussein Sports City stadium with the participation teams representing 18 Arab countries.

The opening ceremony, attended by Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'n Abu Nowar as His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's delegate, opened with the Jordanian national anthem after which participating teams paraded on the field.

Youth Welfare Corporation Director-General, head of the championship's organising committee, Mohammad Jamil Abu Al Tayyeb said in a welcoming address to the participating guests that Jordan had organised this Arab championship to create a chance of contact between Arab youth from various countries.

Arab Track and Field Federation President Ahmed Al Rashdan expressed the federation's appreciation and gratitude for Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein for the warm reception the Arab delegations have been given in Jordan.

Thompson asks Finns to return spikes

HELSINKI (R) — Britain's Daley Thompson, regretting his moment of madness, has begged for the return of the track shoes he threw into the crowd after winning the decathlon at the World Athletics Championships here last week.

Thompson, who pitched his spikes into the crowd during a lap of honour after the 1,500 metres event of the decathlon on Saturday, says in the Finnish sports

publication Urheilun that he must have been out of his mind to do so.

He says he won the Olympic, European and Commonwealth titles as well as the World Decathlon Championship in the shoes and twice broke the world record in them.

He says he threw the shoes away in delicious excitement over his win here and begs for their return.

Australia II in America's Cup finals

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — Australia II, whose backers are embroiled in a dispute with the New York Yacht Club over the legality of the boat's unorthodox keel, won its fifth race in a row with contemptuous ease Thursday and booked its place in the final of the trials to choose an America's Cup challenger.

At the same time the selection of an American boat to defend the

132-year-old trophy, which has never left the United States, was thrown wide open by a dramatic change in the fortunes of Courageous, one of the three contenders.

Australia II assumed a commanding lead early in its race against the Italian boat Azzurra and eventually won by two minutes and 26 seconds over the 24.3 mile course.

Its lead allowed skipper John Bertrand to experiment with sails, as he did on Wednesday, and otherwise the victory margin would have almost certainly been much bigger.

The win ensured Australia II a place in the final, best-of-seven series of races starting on August 28 to decide the challenger. In the final it will race against either Azzurra, the British boat Victory 83 or Canada I.

The Canadian boat was all but eliminated on Thursday when it was beaten by Victory 83 by one minute and 58 seconds. Its hopes now rest on the outcome of a protest it lodged against the British yacht for an alleged starting line infringement.

Unless the protest is upheld Canada I will be ruled out of the final.

Australia II, with an unusual keel with wing-like attachments which its critics claim give it extra speed and an unfair advantage over the other 12-metre yachts, looks a certainty to win the challengers' final unless it is disqualified from the competition as a result of American protests.

But the battle to decide which American yacht will defend the America's Cup is far from over. Dennis Conner's Liberty was by far and away the top boat in last month's trials, winning 15 races and losing only five.

But for the past two days Courageous — the cup defender nine years ago but defeated eight out of nine times by Liberty last month — has dominated the trials. On Wednesday it won one race and lost won against defender, the third American boat in contention.

On Thursday it did even better — beating Liberty twice, by margins of five seconds over an 18-mile course and by 10 seconds over a seven-mile course.

New sails and an adjustment of the mast to cure a tendency for the boat to fall off the wind have rejuvenated Courageous' fortunes. Skipper John Kolius and his crew

have also been especially adept in the past two days in taking advantage of wind shifts.

They did that in Thursday's first race when it seemed that Liberty was on the way to a decisive victory. Liberty took one side of the course but Courageous' skipper, anticipating a wind shift, went the other.

Half a mile from the first mark the wind shift came and Kolius was able to sail between Liberty and the mark and round it with a 12-second lead.

Liberty regained the lead on the second leg when a wire on Courageous' spinnaker pole snapped, sending the pole into a vertical position and letting the sail stream free. Courageous sailed without a headsail for more than a minute, allowing Liberty to get past.

Liberty still led by 20 seconds at the third mark, but then Courageous once again outsailed it upwind for a 34-second lead at the fourth mark. On the final downwind leg Liberty had closed to within two boat lengths as Courageous crossed the finishing line of the shortened course.

The second race followed the same pattern, with Courageous being the superior boat upwind and Liberty slightly faster downwind, but not fast enough to make up what it had lost earlier.

Holmes to defend title

NEW YORK (R) — Larry Holmes will defend his World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title against fellow American Scott Frank in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on Sept. 10, co-promoters Murad Muhammad and Bob Andreoli have announced.

Holmes, 33, who is unbeaten in 43 fights with 30 knockouts, will get a guaranteed \$1.5 million.

His 25-year-old opponent has a 20-0-1 record with 14 knockouts, is ranked 10th by the WBC, and will receive the biggest purse of his career, \$350,000.

The bout, announced Thursday, will be the first heavyweight title fight in New Jersey for more than 50 years.

Navratilova, Lloyd beat close challengers

TORONTO (R) — The two top players in women's tennis, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert Lloyd, were both extended to three sets Thursday night in the third round of a \$250,000 challenge tennis tournament here.

Navratilova was pressed to the limit by the crisp serve-and-volley game of Eva Pfaff of West Germany while Evert Lloyd said after beating Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-7, 6-2, 6-4 that she had played poorly.

Navratilova said she had not felt overconfident about her match with Pfaff, who is 10 inches taller. "She's a big girl, you can't take her lightly," said Navratilova. "She's got top 10 potential. She can pass you from anywhere on the court and has a strong serve."

Evert Lloyd blamed herself after her match with Sukova. "I lost my concentration in the first set," she said.

She saw her 5-2 first set lead vanish as Sukova won four consecutive games. "Helena came up

with some very good shots and some very lucky ones," she said.

In other third round matches, 11th-seeded Kathy Jordan of the United States put out fourth-seeded Sylvia Hanika of West Germany 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 and by 14th-seeded Kathy Horvath eliminated fellow American Kathy Rinaldi, the seventh seed, 7-6, 6-2.

Navratilova, whose only defeat this year was to Horvath in the French Open, served well under pressure in the final three games against Pfaff.

Pfaff broke Navratilova's serve in the sixth game to open up a 5-2 lead in the first set.

Navratilova fought back to 4-5 but Pfaff won the 11th game with two forehand returns and a volley to Navratilova's forehead to take the first set.

Navratilova complained during the match about the umpire's handling of an electronic service line-calling device called the cyclips, which is being used for the first time.

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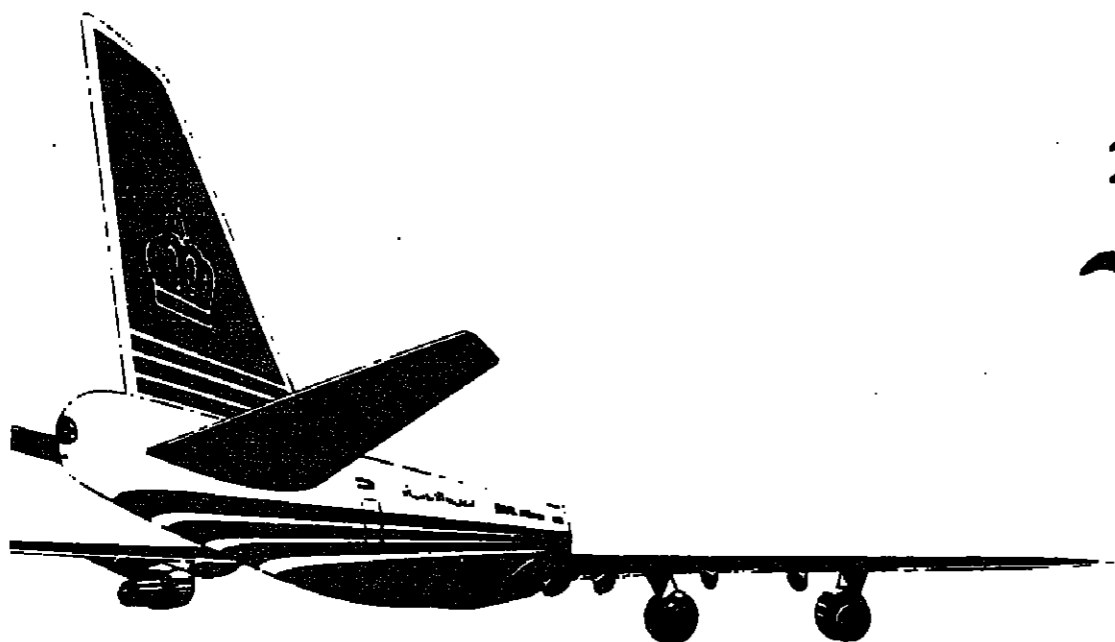
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WORLD

Zimbabweans allegedly kill leader of kidnappers

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwean security forces have killed the leader of a group of rebels who kidnapped six foreign tourists last year, *The Herald* newspaper reported Friday.

It quoted state Security Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa as saying the man was captured on Aug. 9 in the Lupane District of Matabeleland, where the two American, two British and two Australian travellers were abducted 13 months ago.

He was identified by locals as Ndeveziqumlamakomicho (the beard that breaks the cup), the report said.

He was shot dead by the commander of the army unit that captured him. The commander was a former member of opposition leader

Joshua Nkomo's Rhodesian civil war ZIPRA guerrilla forces, it said. No other details were given and no government spokesman could be contacted for amplification.

The government has accused ex-ZIPRA men of fomenting a rebellion in Matabeleland aimed at putting Mr. Nkomo, who returned this week from five months' self-exile in Britain, into power.

In parliament on Wednesday, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe renewed accusations that Mr. Nkomo and his ZAPU Party were

behind rebel activities in Matabeleland which are officially reported to have accused at least 100 civilian deaths since Mr. Nkomo was sacked from the cabinet last year.

However, Home Affairs Minister Herbert Ushewokunze, responsible for the police, told the senate Thursday that South Africa was backing the rebellion and the ZAPU leadership had now lost control.

"Up to now you could say Dr. Nkomo and part of his leadership still had control over the dissidents. But this position changed earlier this year when Botswana took action against the dissidents. The dissidents joined others in South Africa and became a reserve for sponsored bandits against the front-line states," he said.



TAKE ME HOME COUNTRY ROADS: Veteran Zimbabwean leader Joshua Nkomo after his arrival in Zimbabwe last week. The Zimbabwean government Wednesday withdrew its

motion to expel him from Parliament, even though Prime Minister Robert Mugabe repeated his accusations that Mr. Nkomo's forces caused recent violence in Matabeleland. (A.P. Wirephoto)

Jurists criticise Sri Lanka

GENEVA (R) — The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) said Friday that race riots in Sri Lanka last month were made worse by government indifference to the fate of the Tamil minority.

In a report to the United Nations sub-commission on human rights, the ICJ said the anti-Tamil bloodshed, in which more than 380 people were killed, followed brutal retaliatory attacks against innocent members of the Tamil population by security forces unable to run to earth Tamil secessionists.

Rather than helping to overcome the violations, the government had introduced a security act greatly increasing the power of security forces and removed basic protection for the human rights of detainees under the act, the ICJ said.

Habeas corpus proceedings were frustrated by the repeated shifting of detainees from one place to another and this, together with lack of discipline among security forces, had predictable results in the torture and ill-treatment of detainees, the commission said.

The ICJ called for an independent judicial inquiry into the killing of 52 detainees in a jail. It said the government had contributed to illegal executions by enacting a shocking and unparalleled public security law enabling the police to bury bodies in secret without an inquest or post mortem examination.

NEWS IN BRIEF

8 prison warders charged with murder

NELSPRUIT, South Africa (R) — Eight warders have gone on trial here, charged with beating three inmates to death with rubber truncheons as they toiled in scorching heat at a prison. The accused, four white and four black, are also charged with assaulting 34 other black and coloured (mixed race) prisoners at the Barberton Prison farm near the Swaziland border in the north-east of the country. All pleaded not guilty. The state has accused the warders of beating the prisoners repeatedly as they carted wheelbarrows of gravel on Dec. 29.

Oakland crowd scoop up cash

OAKLAND, California (R) — An excited crowd grabbed fistfuls of dollars and ran off with pockets bulging with loose change after a bag of money fell from an armored car during rush hour in Oakland. People jumped off passing buses, left their cars in the middle of streets and ran out of offices for a share of the windfall, eyewitnesses said. The armored car had stopped at a red light. Then its rear door swung open, sending the currency bags falling to the ground, the witnesses reported. The driver pulled away when the light turned green, apparently oblivious of what had happened. A 28-year-old clerk, Willie Greenwood, said he handed over a bag of coins from the vehicle to a local bank — and received a "thank you" note and flowers.

Scottish firm fires 2,000 workers

NIGG, Scotland (R) — Two thousand workers were dismissed at a remote plant in the Scottish highlands for walking off the job when free orange juice was stopped. Managing director Robert Walker said the juice, and coffee for office staff, was costing the firm £100,000 (\$150,000) a year. All 2,000 of his manual workers, including the welders, walked out, protesting that they were not consulted. Walker said the walkout violated dispute procedures, and fired them. Union leader Rab Wilson accused Mr. Walker of exaggerating the cost of the orange juice, saying each welder would have to drink eight gallons a day to run up the bill claimed by management.

MBABANE (R) — Women wearing trousers have been harassed by young men in the southern African kingdom of Swaziland. Witnesses said youths chased the women from the main bus terminus in Mbabane Thursday and some who were caught had their trousers ripped off. In some ministries and other public buildings doorman often turn away women wearing trousers or jeans, but there is no legislation forbidding the practice. Police Friday described the incident as deplorable.

ANCIENT PAKISTANI causes stir in U.K. **LONDON (R)** — A Muslim holy man from Pakistan caused a stir at Heathrow Airport when officials looking at his passport saw his date of birth was given as Dec. 13, 1823. They queried the date with his travelling companion and immigration officers debated what action they should take if the date of birth was false. They decided that as the passport was genuine, Sayed Abdul Mabood could continue on his journey to the United States. At just under 160 years old he is apparently firmly in life for the title of the world's oldest man.

NO PANTS FOR Swazi women **MBABANE (R)** — Women wearing trousers have been harassed by young men in the southern African kingdom of Swaziland. Witnesses said youths chased the women from the main bus terminus in Mbabane Thursday and some who were caught had their trousers ripped off. In some ministries and other public buildings doorman often turn away women wearing trousers or jeans, but there is no legislation forbidding the practice. Police Friday described the incident as deplorable.

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Forest killers to be shot on sight

NEW DELHI (R) — People illegally felling trees in India's Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir will be shot, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported. It quoted Kashmir Forest Minister Hakim Habibullah as saying a special force would be organized to protect forests ravaged by people in need of firewood. Its members would be ordered to shoot on sight anyone found cutting down trees illegally or involved in smuggling timber out of the state.

U.S.-Soviet diplomatic tangle ends peacefully

WASHINGTON (R) — A week-long diplomatic and legal tangle between the United States and Soviet Union ended when a 16-year-old Soviet boy declared: "I want to go home."

The statement by diplomat's son Andrei Berezhkov at Dulles Airport near Washington Thursday night ended a tangle between the State Department and the Soviet embassy and cleared the way for him to leave for Moscow.

The dispute began last Friday when *The New York Times* printed a letter, apparently written by Andrei Berezhkov, saying: "I hate my country... I want to stay here." A similar letter was sent to President Reagan.

The State Department said it wanted to talk to "Andrei Berezhkov," the signature on the letter, before he left the United States to find out his intentions. The embassy refused to allow an official interview.

But, under an plan apparently worked out in intensive discussions by U.S. and Soviet officials, the impasse was broken by allowing reporters to talk to Andrei

while senior State Department officials listened.

"The thing I wanted to say is that I want to go home and not to stay here. That's the thing I wanted to say," Andrei, a lanky youth with curly blond hair, told the three reporters.

The boy, who was flanked by his parents during the eight-minute interview, denied writing the letter to *The New York Times*.

In the seven days since the letter appeared, he said he had lived a normal life at the embassy compound instead of their home in suburban Maryland and had watched television.

After Andrei's plane took off for Paris, the State Department said the United States had insisted that Andrei must be given a chance to "clarify his own wishes in a setting that permitted him to do so freely."

"Tonight Andrei had that opportunity," it said. "At the airport, in the presence of U.S. officials, he stated clearly and firmly that he wished to return to the Soviet Union with his parents."

Truck driver regrets killing 5 Australians

ALICE SPRINGS, Australia (R) — A driver accused of murdering four people when his truck crashed into the bar of a motel bitterly regretted the incident, his lawyer told a court here Friday.

Four people were killed instantly and 30 injured, 11 seriously, when the huge truck ran into the crowded bar at remote Ayers Rock in Central Australia Thursday. A fifth victim died later of injuries.

Driver Douglas Crabbe, 36, was found by police several hours after the crash on a building construction site about 17 kilometres from the motel.

Crabbe, wearing faded blue jeans, a blue jumper and handcuffed to police made a 10-minute court appearance Friday at the town of Alice Springs, where most of the victims were rushed 400 kilometres by air and road for treatment.

No plea was entered when Crabbe appeared on four counts of murder. He was remanded in custody until another hearing scheduled for Sept. 12.

His lawyer told the court that Crabbe "bitterly regrets the tragic consequences of the events leading to his appearance."

Police had said Thursday that shortly before the crash a man was ordered out of the bar after being refused a drink.

Workmen meanwhile pondered how to back the 130-tonne truck from the wrecked bar, where customers had been enjoying a 2 a.m. drink.

Security tight in Sri Lankan hill capital

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government tightened security in the hill country town of Kandy Friday after threats that anti-government forces might throw bombs to make dozens of elephants taking part in a pageant stampede, sparking off renewed ethnic violence, officials said.

They said security authorities had received reports that anti-government forces might try to throw bombs at the 11-day pageant in Kandy.

The government said a night curfew in Colombo and seven other districts would be extended

by two hours from Friday so security forces in these areas could be sent to Kandy.

The officials did not identify the anti-government forces but the government banned three leftist parties last month and ordered the arrest of their leaders, accusing them of involvement in rioting in which more than 385 people were killed and hundreds of houses, shops and factories belonging to minority Tamils were attacked.

Thousands of people have been watching the pageant, a spectacular annual torchlit procession of elephants and hundreds of dancers, drummers and singers, every night since it started on Sunday. It is due to end on Wednesday.

Aquino to return Sunday

MANILA (R) — Buttons and T-shirts saying "We're still for Ninoy" were being distributed on the streets of Manila Friday in preparation for the scheduled return on Sunday of opposition leader Benigno Aquino after three years of self-exile in the United States.

Some 15,000 to 20,000 people are expected to welcome Mr. Aquino, better known at home by his nickname Ninoy, when he finally arrives at Manila Airport, opposition sources said.

His return follows weeks of uncertainty over whether he would fulfill a promise to resume his campaign against arch political rival President Ferdinand Marcos.

Mr. Aquino has been sentenced to death by a military court for murder, subversion and illegal possession of firearms and had spent more than seven years in an army stockade when Mr. Marcos

allowed him to leave in 1980 for heart surgery in the United States.

Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile has said he would be arrested the moment he set foot on Philippine soil.

Mr. Aquino left the United States a week ago saying he would return to the Philippines by way of Indonesia, Singapore and Taiwan.

Quake hits towns

MANILA (R) — Rescue workers combed through rubble in two stricken towns in the northern Philippines Friday after an earthquake killed about 20 people and injured scores.

Estimates of the death toll ranged up to 25 but disaster relief officials also said about 100 people were missing from a lodging house for transient workers in Laoag, the town worst hit by the quake on Wednesday night.

Nigeria threatens crackdown on TV, radio in bid to halt election violence

LAGOS (R) — The Nigerian government has threatened to close down radio and television stations if they encourage election violence or the kind in which scores of people have died in two western states.

In a statement read on federal government-controlled television Thursday night, Communications Minister Audu Ogburn said certain defeated politicians had used the media to encourage their supporters to riot, loot and commit arson.

"Any broadcasting station, whether federal or state-owned, that shall be used for the promotion of violence and the destruction of peace shall have its licence revoked and be closed down immediately by law enforcement agencies," the statement said.

Earlier Thursday a police announcement said 33 people had died in a week of political violence in Ibadan, the capital of Western Oyo State.

More than 300 people have

been arrested and 26 houses burnt down in the disturbances, which started with allegations of attempted ballot-rigging in last Saturday's governorship elections and continued with demonstrations against the result.

President Shugu Shagari's National Party of Nigeria (NPN) swept the polls in Oyo and in the neighbouring state of Ondo, which has also seen violent protests against the result.

Oyo and Ondo were among five states formerly controlled by the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), whose leader, Obafemi Awolowo, lost to Mr. Shagari in presidential elections earlier this month.

No official casualty figures have been issued for Ondo, but UPN-controlled Lagos television reported Thursday night that "scores" of people had been killed in political disturbances.

It showed film of burning houses and said armed police had already closed down radio and television stations. Press reports

from the state indicate that the violence has been more intense than in Oyo.

Defeated Ondo Governor Michael Ajakaiye, who will officially relinquish power when the new administration takes over in October, said closing broadcasting services could exacerbate the trouble because it deprived him of access to the public.

A statement issued by President Shagari's office Thursday night expressed concern at what it termed wanton acts of arson and thuggery in the two states.

"Some political leaders, themselves adequately protected by immunity, have unfortunately called on their supporters to 'kill' and commit other acts of illegality," it said.

Voting in senatorial elections Saturday has been postponed in Oyo and Ondo, but the 17 other states will vote as planned. Two other elections, for state and national assemblies, are to be held by Sept. 3.

U.N. chief's visit to Southern Africa unlikely to break Namibia deadlock

JOHANNESBURG (R) — This week's planned visit by the U.N. secretary-general to Southern Africa is welcome to the Western "contact group" but unlikely to bring a breakthrough on the Namibia (South West Africa) issue, Western diplomats said.

The contact group — the United States, Britain, France, Canada and West Germany — drafted settlement proposals endorsed five years ago by the U.N. Security Council.

Meanwhile, diplomats and other political observers noted reports of sharply increased South African military activity in Angola on the eve of the tour of South Africa Namibia and Angola by

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The diplomats said this would increase obstacles to any settlement.

The U.N. announced Mr. Perez de Cuellar's trip Wednesday saying it would be part of efforts to negotiate independence for Namibia, which South Africa administers in defiance of the world body.

South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said of Mr. Perez de Cuellar's journey:

"I cannot say what the prospects are of progress at this stage but we all hope progress will be made. South Africa still wants a

settlement and we hope these talks will contribute towards this goal."

A political source said he believed South Africa was hoping to correct what it sees as anti-South African bias in the United Nations on the Namibia issue.

South Africa has demanded, with U.S. support, that any settlement in Namibia be simultaneous with withdrawal of an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

Angola has used the Cuban forces to counter UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) guerrillas led by South Africa ally Jonas Savimbi.

Peru's army says former officers aid Maoist rebels

LIMA (R) — The Peruvian army has accused retired high-ranking officers of aiding the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (shining path) guerrilla organisation in subversive activities.

The official Andina news agency quoted an army bulletin as saying the former officers were prompted by "political ambitions and shameful interests to create chaos."

It did not identify the ex-officers but said certain press campaigns against the armed services "have let us clearly define the enemy, its foreign and domestic relations and its wicked objectives."

"The external enemies of Peru know that the armed forces, especially the army, are the main hurdle to their objectives of seizing power and implanting communism in collusion with the subversive terrorist delinquents of Sendero Luminoso," the bulletin said.

Several opposition dailies and magazines have recently published violent attacks on the army, especially on Gen. Clemente Noel, commander of the emergency zone in the Andean districts of Ayacucho, Apurimac and Huancavelica.

Interior Minister Luis Perovich told foreign correspondents Thursday that Maoist guerrillas had made 2,119 attacks on property in the three years of their violent campaign.

2 executed in Ghana

ABIDJAN (R) — A former member of Ghana's ruling council and an ex-serviceman were executed at dawn Thursday for the murders of four judges and a retired army major in June last year.

Accra Radio, monitored here, said the death sentences on Joachim Amartey Kwei, 32, Johnny Ransford Dzandu, 24, were upheld by the ruling Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC).

Kwei was a founding member of the PNDC, which came to power after Lt. Lt. Jerry Rawlings staged his second coup on Dec. 31, 1981.

The radio said the PNDC also upheld a third death penalty for the murders, imposed on Monday by a public tribunal, on Lance-Corp. Samuel Amedeka, 27. It was not carried out because Amedeka escaped while in custody and is now in neighbouring Togo, according to exile sources.

The death sentence on a fourth convicted man, 21-year-old Lance-Corp. Michael Senya, has not yet been confirmed by the PNDC, the radio added.

The charred bodies of three high court judges and a retired major were found on wasteland three days after they were abducted from their Accra homes on June 30 last year.

No motive for the murders was discovered but Kwei's arrest, when he was still a PNDC member, led to suspicion that there was official collusion.

All the victims were prominent conservatives and radical elements were widely blamed for their deaths.

The special investigations board set up to investigate the crime recommended that the PNDC's security adviser, Kojo Tsikata, should also be charged after pre-trial testimony that he ordered both the arrests and killings.

But Ghana's attorney-general said there was no solid evidence to implicate Tsikata who has consistently accused counter-revolutionaries of trying to frame him.

The public tribunal, a special court set up by the PNDC and boycotted by most Ghanaian lawyers, convicted Kwei of conspiracy to commit murder and the others of both conspiracy and murder.

The convicted men admitted their involvement but said they were ordered to take part by their superiors and were left to take the blame.